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25X1X [redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 22 Aug. 1950

SUBJECT 25X1A Italian Police Raids on Sections of the Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI) in Rome

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1. The Italian police raids on the Rome PCI Sections, which took place on 5 August 1950, reportedly were no surprise to Italian Communist leaders, who had previously predicted the probability of such action by the police. A week before the raids, the Cadre Office of the PCI Rome Federation had notified all Sector and Section secretaries to remove from their files all lists of Party members and any other compromising material.

2. The greatest surprise was caused by the police action against the Rome Federation Headquarters, but even here the Communists had foreseen that a raid might occur. Prior to his departure for Prague, Pietro Secchia had ordered the PCI Directorate to destroy all masters of off-set printing machines.

3. The PCI, however, did not expect the raids at the hour and day on which they took place. Proof of this is the compromising material found in the Tuscolana Section. No alarm or warning was given until the police raided the Testaccio Section. Leaders of the Servizio d'Ordine e Informazioni, and particularly Luigi Acrosso, stated in a meeting of Sector Chiefs that the PCI Directorate had been informed of the contemplated police action on the afternoon of the same day of the raids, but that the Directorate had considered it unwise to inform the Sections of the Party in order not to expose the Directorate's informants. Furthermore, they felt safe since responsible persons had been apprised of expected raids and given instructions.

4. Two meetings took place after the raids. The first was held on 6 August 1950 in the Rome hospital where Aldo Natoli was a patient. At this meeting it was decided not to call a general strike and not to call a one-hour work stoppage. They felt that the material confiscated by the police was for the most part not compromising. The second meeting was a convocation on 7 August 1950 of the Sector secretaries, who were given orders to keep themselves at the disposal of the Rome Federation and to prevent any uncontrolled action by any Communist subordinate units.

5. Members of the Servizio d'Ordine e Informazioni and representatives of the Federation Cadre Office, among whom were Acrosso and Edoardo Perna, later visited the raided Sections in order to obtain information of the police operations.

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